

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06576 01 OF 02 151714Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 JUSE-00 MCT-01 /074 W
-----151724Z 093127 /41

R 151706Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7423
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06576

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, GW
SUBJECT: REACTION TO BUBACK'S MURDER: POLITICS AS
USUAL

REFS: (A) STUTTGART 626; (B) BONN 6163

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE POLITICAL REACTION TO THE BRUTAL
MURDER OF FEDERAL ATTORNEY-GENERAL BUBACK CONTAINED NO
SURPRISES. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND
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PAGE 02 BONN 06576 01 OF 02 151714Z

THE OPPOSITION WERE CONFIRMED AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE
BUNDESTAG INTERIOR AND LEGAL COMMITTEES, APRIL 14. THE
OPPOSITION ONCE AGAIN CALLED FOR MAKING ANTI-TERRORISM
LAWS TOUGHER WHILE THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES MAINTAINED THAT
THE EXISTING LAWS WERE ADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM.
THE WEST GERMAN PUBLIC REACTION IS AN INDICATION THAT
THE SOCIETY REMAINS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL

VIOLENCE, BUT IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN
STRONG ENOUGH TO JOLT THE POLITICAL PARTIES OUT OF THEIR
FIXED POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. EVEN BEFORE FEDERAL ATTORNEY-GENERAL BUBACK AND HIS
COLLEAGUES WERE LAID TO REST ON APRIL 13, THE EULOGIES
DELIVERED BY THE CHANCELLOR AND THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG
MINISTER-PRESIDENT ILLUSTRATED THE DIFFERING VIEWS OF
GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION ON COPING WITH POLITICAL
VIOLENCE. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CLAIM THAT THE
COALITION PARTIES HAVE CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY
THROUGH CHANGES IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM, THAT
ENCOURAGES POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM. THE GOVERNMENT
PARTIES MAINTAIN THAT THE GOAL OF THE TERRORISTS IS TO FORCE
THE AUTHORITIES TO OVERREACT BY PASSING UNJUST LAWS WHICH
WOULD BRING THE RULE OF LAW IN THE FRG INTO QUESTION.

2. THESE DIFFERENCES WERE CLEARLY ILLUSTRATED DURING
THE JOINT SESSION OF THE BUNDESTAG INTERIOR AND LEGAL
COMMITTEES, APRIL 14. ONCE AGAIN, THE OPPOSITION CALLED
FOR THE PASSAGE OF A LAW AUTHORIZING THE MONITORING OF
CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN ATTORNEYS AND DEFENDANTS IN
TERRORISM TRIALS. THE OPPOSITION ALSO CALLED FOR
TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF
ENCOURAGING OR ASSISTING TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. BOTH
BILLS WERE REJECTED EARLIER BY THE COALITION PARTIES,
AND THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE DEFEATED AGAIN SHOULD THE
OPPOSITION REINTRODUCE THEM.

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PAGE 03 BONN 06576 01 OF 02 151714Z

3. DURING THE TESTIMONY OF THE CHIEF OF THE FEDERAL
CRIMINAL POLICE, IT WAS DISCLOSED THAT FOLLOWING HIS
ARREST IN NOVEMBER 1976, THE ACCUSED TERRORIST-LAWYER

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PAGE 01 BONN 06576 02 OF 02 151714Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06576

HAAG (WHO IS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE BUBACK MURDER) HAD A TWO-HOUR, UNMONITORED CONVERSATION WITH THE BAADER-MEINHOF ATTORNEY CROISSANT, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. THIS CASE POINTS UP THE PROBLEM THE GERMANS FACE IN BALANCING CIVIL LIBERTIES AGAINST INTERNAL SECURITY NEEDS.

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PAGE 02 BONN 06576 02 OF 02 151714Z

4. IT REQUIRES A CERTAIN DEGREE OF COURAGE ON THE PART OF THE COALITION TO RESIST CALLS FOR ENACTING TOUGHER ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION. IF THE CULPRITS OF THE BUBACK CASE ARE NOT APPREHENDED QUICKLY, OR IF THERE ARE NEW OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE, THE GOVERNING PARTIES ARE LIABLE TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES THE NEXT TIME THE GERMANS GO TO THE POLLS. THERE ARE NO STATE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, NEXT YEAR THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR OF THEM WHICH WILL HAVE A CRUCIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIAL-LIBERAL COALITION IN BONN.

5. THE BUBACK MURDER, LIKE THE ATTACK ON THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM EARLIER, WAS A SEVERE PSYCHOLOGICAL SHOCK FOR THE GERMAN PUBLIC. MODERN GERMAN HISTORY, PARTICULARLY THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC PERIOD, WHICH WAS RIFE WITH POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS, HAS LEFT AN IMPRINT IN THE GERMAN PSYCHE THAT CONTINUES TO PLAY A ROLE IN GERMAN BEHAVIOR TODAY. IT IS THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING THAT IN A COUNTRY WHERE LAW AND ORDER IS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH, VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY (THE "RECHTSSTAAT") IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING TO THE PUBLIC. HOWEVER, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SOCIAL/LIBERAL COALITION ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE UNION PARTIES ON THE OTHER, AS TO HOW TO COPE WITH SUCH VIOLENCE ARE SO FIRMLY FIXED AT THIS TIME THAT THERE IS LITTLE ROOM FOR COMPROMISE.
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